



April Newsletter 2010

Lawn Care Is A Partnership

Welcome to our very first newsletter of 2010 . We hope you enjoy reading it and continue to come back to check us out--often!! If you ever need anything, please use the 'contact us' section and send us a message. We welcome all comments regarding our website, as well as anything you might need.

SIMPLE TIPS HELP PRODUCE A BEAUTIFUL LAWN

The following are just a few of the not quite accurate sayings that direct many people in their lawn care practices:

- When the forsythia bloom, treat for crabgrass
- Get rid of grubs; get rid of moles
- Spring is the best time to fertilize a lawn

Maintaining a healthy lawn is not rocket science, but there are a few guidelines that should be followed and a few wives' tales that should be debunked.

Following are a few tips for year-round maintenance that will hold true for most lawns. Exceptions would be lawns that are already damaged from insects, disease or drought; these lawns would require special care.

An annual grass like crabgrass is coarse-looking, aggressive, and can take over a thin, stressed lawn by mid-summer. Pre-emergent crabgrass control products work by establishing a barrier that discourages the crabgrass and other annual weed seeds from germinating. This barrier has a limited life.

We've been hearing advertising encouraging application since February, but crabgrass control products that are applied too early may NOT be effective by the time the crabgrass germinates. The optimum time for applications of pre-emergent crabgrass controls should be done in the 'end of March' to 'end of April' time frame for most years.

Professional licensed lawn care operators have access to pre-emergent products that have a LONGER barrier life as well as post-emergent products to handle crabgrass later in the season.

Dandelions are the most commonly noticed broadleaf weeds in home lawns. They are not a perennial weed, but are grown from seed each year. Although most homeowners do not appreciate seeing the dandy's sunny yellow flowers, the best control of dandelions comes by allowing them to begin the seed stage. Treating dandelions when they are very young is far less effective than treating them when they have already gone to flower or entered the puffball stage. This is because, as the plant's energy is directed at flower/seed production, it does not absorb control products as readily. If your dream is to never see a dandelion flower or other broadleaf weed in your lawn and you treat before the flower/seed stage, control products may need to be repeated through spot treatments as additional weeds begin to grow. The best preventative control for all types of weeds is always a thick, lush lawn.

Grub control is another problem where effective timing is crucial to results. Control products work in the nervous system of the grubs only when the insect has just hatched out of its egg, which usually occurs in July and August. If a 'preventative' product is being used, it may be applied from May through August. There will always be grubs and other insects in your lawn, but they won't always be in such numbers that they'll cause noticeable damage to the turf. So do not panic when you discover a few grubs in your soil.

Well, that's it for this one. We hope you come back for more. Thanks and have an enjoyable time in your landscape.

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